

Minutes of Tree & Forest Committee Meeting

Dec 4, 2019 5:30pm PM Town Library

1. Call to order. Attended by Jim Neureuther, George Kellar, Eammon Coughlin. Paula Byrdy resigned from the committee after she sold her Lanesborough home and moved to Kemble Farm in Lenox.
2. Minutes from Aug 26, 2019 were approved
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. No donations and no expenses since the Aug 26 meeting.
 - b. FY20 Town Operating Budget Account (100.168.5700.020) is \$1,200
 - c. Tree Committee Donations Account (180.168.5700.020) is \$3,685.48
4. Tree Status/Maintenance
 - a. Tree signs at Laston, LES, Memorial Park pulled up by Jim & Donna & cleaned
 - b. Lanesborough Elementary School Tree Planting Plan. Discussion of draft Tree and Forest Committee tree planting plan for LES which incorporates comments from last meeting. This Plan (which is attached) will be submitted to the School Committee, the Town, and the LES Principle after this meeting with the goal to gain their collective approval before the 2020 spring planting period.
 - c. Jim contacted Julie Coop (Mass DCR) and provided via email the latest official measurements for King Elmer to be incorporated into the Mass Champion Tree listing for American Elm. Julie requested that we also enter the information into the online Champion Tree nomination form which was done. We expect that King Elmer: the Lanesborough Elm will be crowned the largest American Elm in the state upon certification of the measurement data and verification that the previous champ Deerfield Village Elm was indeed removed in 2018.
 - d. The Dec issue of Citizen Forester published by Mass DCR contained information about a mysterious disease affecting American Beech trees in western PA, eastern OH, and western NY. The disease may be caused by a small worm pest from China. This disease is killing small beech trees. We hope this disease does not appear in western Ma and affect our new American Beech planted at Laston in 2019.
 - e. King Elmer grant update for 2020 DED injection
 - i. Julie Coop (Mass DCR) has forwarded an amended \$1000 Challenge Grant (50:50 match) Heritage Tree proposal since the timing of the April King Elmer pruning and the original \$2400 matching Grant Award precluded applying that grant money to the pruning. I requested a revision to the original approved grant to allow the Tree Committee it for the King Elmer DED injection scheduled for June 2020. This work is expected to cost less than \$2000 based on prior DED injections. Therefore the amended \$1000 maximum of the grant will cover 50% of the contracted effort.
 - ii. Jim will contact Julie Coop (Mass DCR) to make sure the State requirements for the contractor (Race Mountain Tree Services) are understood by the Tree & Forest Committee. Jim will then communicate those requirements to Ron Yaple of Race Mountain.
5. Year End Newsletter
 - a. Since 2020 is a US census year, the annual Lanesborough census mailing will not be available to the Tree Committee to mail out its Year End Newsletter. Print costs for the newsletter were \$395 (for 1400 copies) in 2018. The Committee agrees it's time to go digital and save enough

money to plant a tree (and save a tree in paper cost) by sending a one page digital newsletter out via the online Lanesborough monthly newsletter.

- b. End of year is a busy time so the Committee decided to include the Tree and Forest newsletter with the Mar edition of the online Lanesborough Town news. We will also determine at future meetings if we will send additional electronic newsletters during the year.

6. Committee Membership

- a. Paula Byrdy has moved to Lenox and is now Tree Committee Emeritus.
- b. Tree & Forest Committee is established as a 5 member committee and it now has 2 vacancies. This means that an official meeting requires all 3 current members to attend and all committee votes require 3 ayes to pass. Recruitment was discussed and each member will maintain an awareness of potential new members from interactions with friends and townsfolk. A key requirement is the willingness and ability to help weed & mulch existing trees and perhaps help dig holes and plant new trees. Everything else can be learned or taught.

7. Other Business

- a. It's time to submit Tree City re-Certification for 2019 (our 15th year). Jim will attempt to submit the application using the new online Application portal. All previous re-certification applications were submitted on paper.
- b. Volunteer time & Expense Items were updated
- c. Next Meeting will be held in Feb to discuss the content of the electronic newsletter.